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STATEMENT BY MR. JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA
SECRETARY OF INT'L RELATIONS OF FRETILIN AND REP. TO THE U.N.,
ON AUSTRALIAN PM BOB HAWKE'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN JAKARTA OF AUSTRALIA'S RECOGNITION OF INDONESIA'S ANNEXATION OF EAST TIMOR
26.8.85

1. The announcement by Australian PM Hawke of his government's decision to recognize Indonesia's annexation of East Timor is an act of cowardice that has become a pattern of all Australian governments in past and present policies towards East Timor and Indonesia. Hawke's statement is yet another demonstration of Australian subservience to a military dictatorship, and of his government's hypocrisy in regional and international affairs.

2. The people of East Timor who lost more than 40,000 people to the Japanese during World War II, because of their staunch support to the Australian commandos figthing in the hills of East Timor, are once again forsaken and betrayed by their neighbours.

3. On behalf of FRETILIN leadership and expressing the sentiments of all East Timorese suffering under a cruel military occupation, I strongly denounce the Labour government's decision to give legal recognition to, and thus legitimize, Indonesia's annexation of East Timor which has been rejected and condemned by the United Nations' Security Council in its resolutions 384 (1975) and 389 (1976).

4. Such a decision of the Australian government, coming at a time when the Secretary General of the United Nations is sparing no efforts to find a comprehensive solution to the Timor problem, must be seen as a gross and irresponsible attempt to undermine the complex peace process now under way.

5. Furthermore, I repudiate Australian official expression of concern about human rights and humanitarian situation in East Timor because this Australian acceptance of Indonesia's occupation of my country will only aggravate the overall situation there. The past 10 years of Australian appeasement of Indonesia has brought no improvement whatsoever in the human rights situation in East Timor. The PM and his FM are lying deliberately when they claim to the contrary. Hundreds of East Timorese who have been brutalized in prisons in Timor and Indonesia, the tens of thousands who have died over the past 10 years, attest to this.

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